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ABSTRACT

This is a student workbook in African American studies used in the Detroit, Michigan public schools in 1978-79. The workbook contains student exercises in African history, culture, geography, languages, architecture, folktales, food, and artifacts. The continent of Africa is covered in units on Egypt, North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, and South Africa. In addition, the black experience of slavery in North America is covered in a section about Africans in the New World. (APM)

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Student Workbook

Title I: African-American Studies Program

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prepared by: Linda Wilson, African-American Studies Teacher

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Focus on Africa

-an introduction-

WHY STUDY ABOUT AFRICA?

- The history of Africa is the history of mankind. Since the explorations of L.S.B. Leakey in the 1950's, evidence indicates that the first man appeared in East Africa.

- The ancestors of one American in eight came from Africa. African-Americans and Americans of other backgrounds are interested in learning more about our African heritage.

- Africa has made many contributions to world civilizations. We want to become more aware of these accomplishments.

- Incorrect information and negative attitudes about Africa need to be corrected. Our attitudes affect the way we receive new information and the type of information we seek out.

- Africa is an important part of the world. It is the second largest continent with a population of over 350 million. Abundant mineral reserves and natural resources are necessary for today's technology and world trade.

- Many current issues and world problems, such as human rights and nation building, are centered on Africa. Understanding these problems may help contribute to world peace in the future.

THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN AFRICA?

Over 350 million people live in Africa. The history of Africa's people is still being researched today. In northern Tanzania, Dr. Louis Leakey, a famous scientist, has discovered fossil remains of a man believed to be a direct descendant of modern man. Dr. Leakey's discoveries are important because they indicate that man - the human species - probably originated in Africa.

Most Africans live in tribes or ethnic groups. Each has its own name, language, government, and customs or special ways of living. Farming is the usual way of life for rural Africans. The most common foods are corn, cassava, yams, plantain, and bananas.

Today, many Africans are moving to urban areas. Cities such as Lagos, Nigeria, and Nairobi, Kenya are very crowded. Of course, Africans who live in the city have lifestyles similar to ours.

WHY HAS AFRICA BEEN CALLED THE "DARK CONTINENT"?

Since almost no Europeans had seen the inside of the African continent, it remained a mystery for a long time. People often made up stories or myths about Africa out of their own ignorance and lack of understanding. In addition to the Egyptian civilization, we now know that other great civilizations such as Meroe, Kush, Ethiopia, and Sudan existed over a thousand years ago.

During the early middle ages, Africans built the great city of Zimbabwe in Southern Africa. The ruins of its huge buildings of uncemented stone are still standing. In West Africa, during the same period, the kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Sonhai flourished.

HOW LARGE IS AFRICA?

Africa is the second largest continent on the earth. It is more than three times the size of the fifty United States. It has a distance of 5,200 miles from the northern coast to the southern tip, and about 4,600 miles across the widest east-west section. There are more than forty countries in Africa.

WHAT IS THE CLIMATE OF AFRICA?

Africa has basically two kinds of weather, wet weather and dry weather. In northern Africa, between the Sahara and the equator, the rainy season comes in July. South of the equator, the rainy season comes in January. Most of Africa is savanna or grasslands, which resembles the plains in Indiana or Kansas in our country. Along the equator and the West coast of Africa is the rain forest. The hottest and driest parts of Africa are located in the Sahara and small deserts in the southern and western parts of the continent. The climate at the southern tip of Africa is probably the most pleasant found in the continent. Here the weather is warm and mild, even evergreen trees and bushes grow there.

WHAT NATURAL RESOURCES DOES AFRICA HAVE?

Anything in nature that people can use for making things they need or want is called a natural resource. Africa is a treasure house of natural resources. Most of the gold and diamonds used in the world are from Africa. Uranium, which is used as fuel for atomic energy, also comes from Africa. Copper, iron, manganese, and chromium are mined in Africa. In recent years, oil has been discovered, too.

ARTS and TRADITION

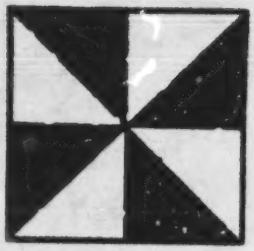
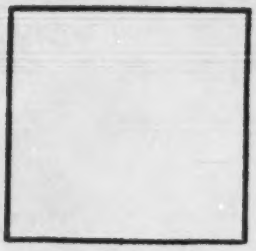
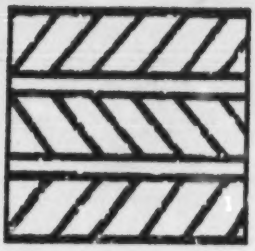
The African artist has been an important member of his community since prehistoric times. He not only created magnificent rock paintings but also designed tools for hunting and other everyday activities. As migrations and the settling of various tribes took place, standard styles of craftsmanship developed. Today, different tribes are known for their styles of workmanship in jewelry, weaving, carving, and pottery.

Artistic techniques are usually learned and passed down from father to son and certain crafts are often a family enterprise. In some cases, however, when a young member of the tribe shows talent at carving, for instance, he may become an apprentice or study under a well-known sculptor. There is often a sharp dividing line between the crafts practiced by men and those practiced by women. In most regions, men are responsible for house building, tool making and carving, while the women do the dyeing, spinning, weaving, and making of pottery. In many parts of West Africa, however, men do the weaving and even the fashioning of garments.

Since the African artist is always in touch with nature, he often used designs taken from animals and plants as decoration. Usually, these are drawn in an abstract manner, that is they were not made to look exactly like the real life object or animal. Another important element of design is the use of geometric shapes and repetetive patterns.

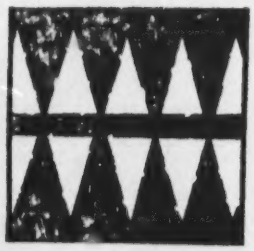
One the following page, favorite African designs are drawn. Try to copy the design in the empty square.

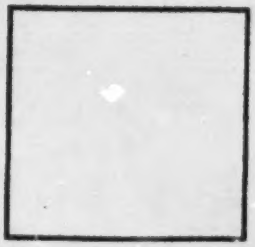
AFRICAN DESIGNS TO TRY

geometric

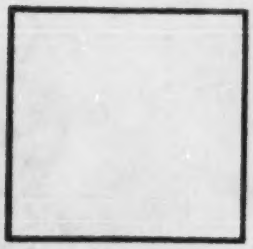
1. Zaire
2. Nigeria
3. Tanzania
4. South Africa

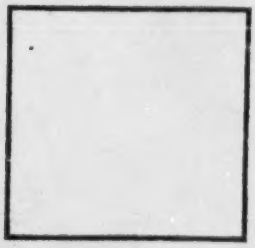




animals

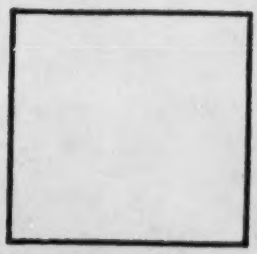
1. Nigeria
2. Rhodesia
3. Dahomey
4. Ghana





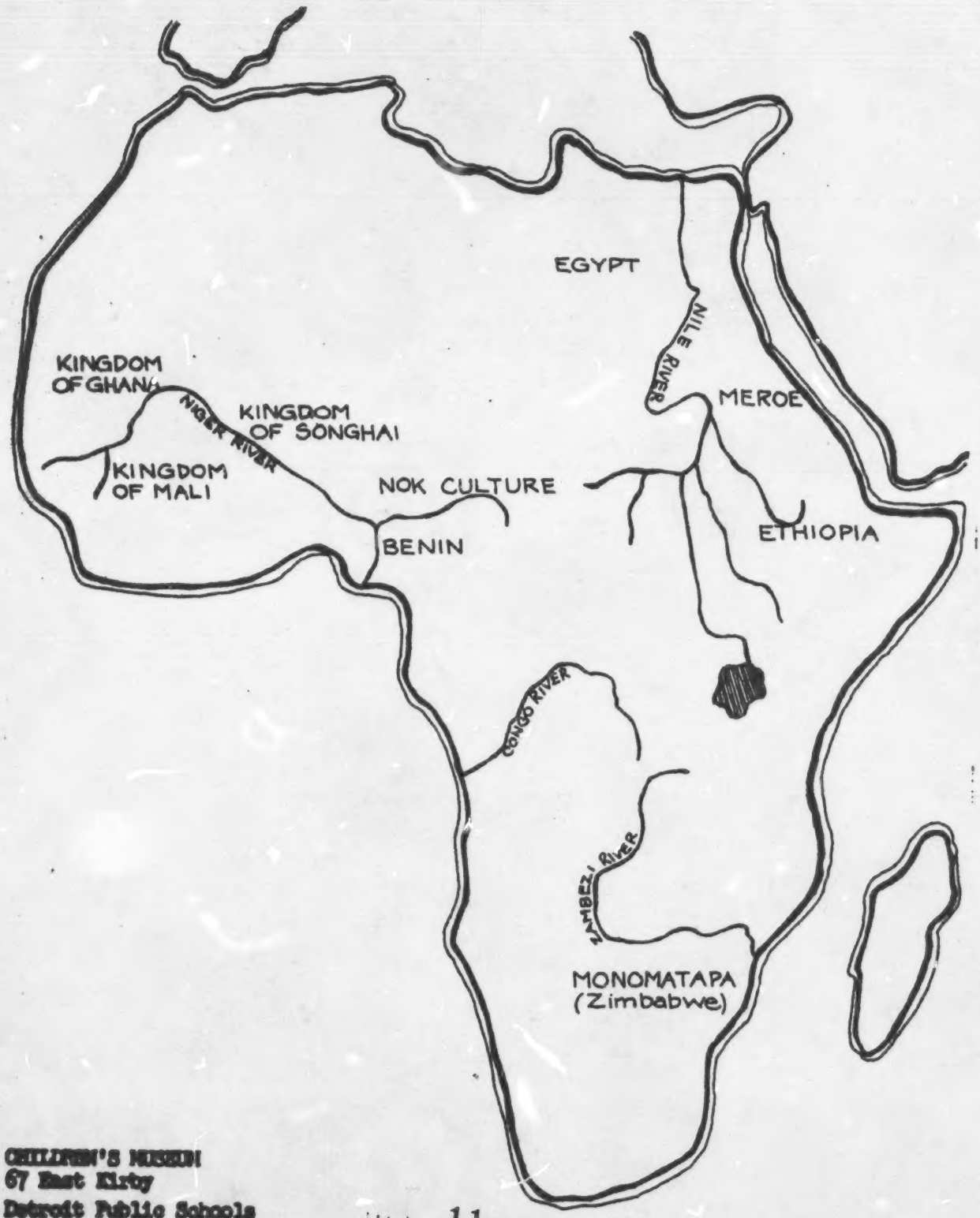
figures

1. Ghana
2. Gabon
3. Ivory Coast
4. Zaire



The Ancient Egyptians

AFRICA - Cradle of Civilization



CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
67 East Kirby
Detroit Public Schools

VOCABULARY:

Some of these words were introduced in your Museum lesson. Others may have already been familiar to you. Choose the correct word and write it in the blank next to each of the definitions.

ANCESTOR	EMBALM	MUMMY	PYRAMIDS
ARTIFACT	EVOLVE	PAPYRUS	ROSETTA STONE
DELTA	HERODOTUS	PHAROAH	SPINY

1. _____ to develop; to change from one form to another.

2. _____ a king of ancient Egypt

3. _____ a tall grass-like plant. Paper was made from the stems.

4. _____ a forefather; any person from whom one is descended.

5. _____ the "mouth" of the river

6. _____ stone monument used as a tomb

7. _____ an object made by man

8. _____ huge monument with the head of a man and the body of a lion

9. _____ a stone found in 1799 that was used to decode hieroglyphics

10. _____ a body treated for burial; usually wrapped in cloth

11. _____ Greek historian in the fifth century B.C. He wrote about the ancient Egyptians and Ethiopians.

12. _____ to protect or preserve from decaying

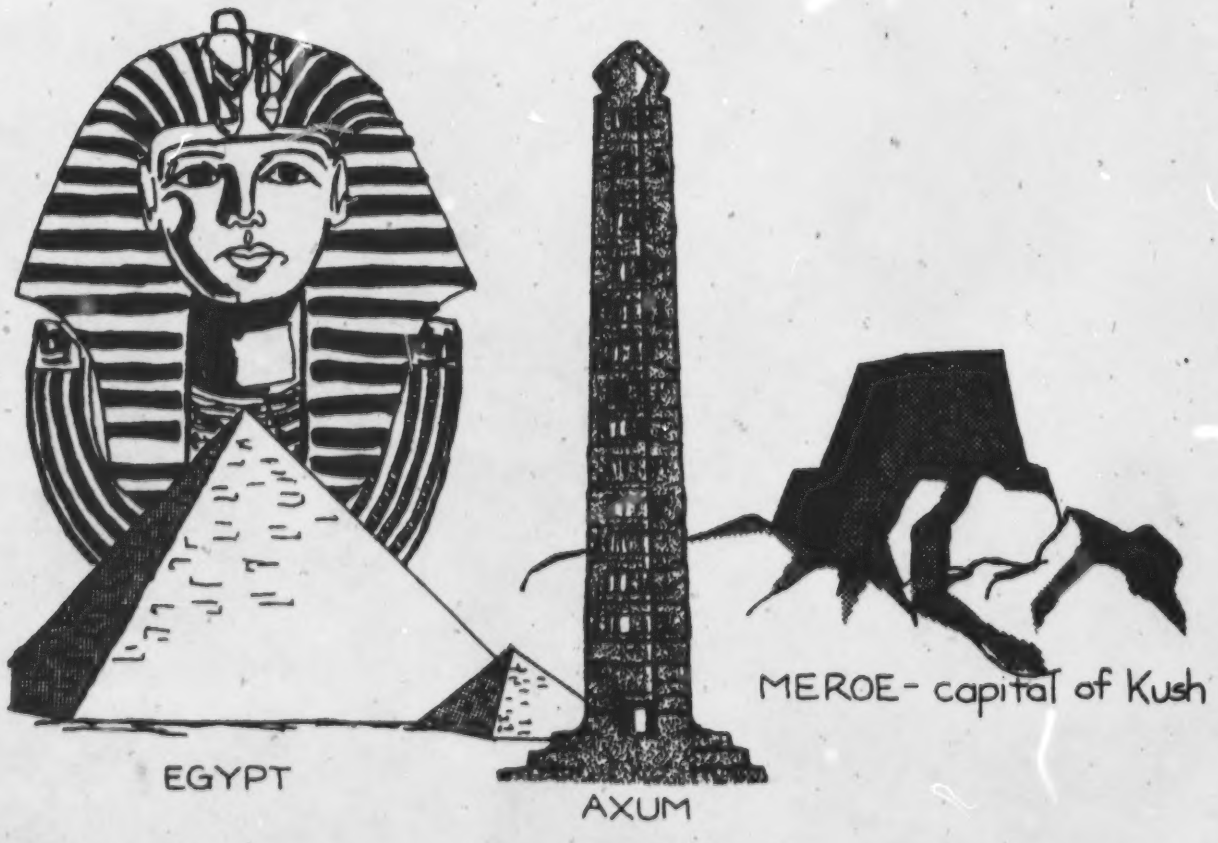
Life in ancient Egypt depended upon the Nile River. Egypt is a huge, brown desert except for a narrow strip of green land along both sides of its banks. In this beautiful valley, the ancient Egyptians annually watched the river flood the farmlands, then recede leaving behind minerals which made the soil fertile. They invented a system of irrigation which is still used in some places. The land along the river was divided into basins with dirt walls around them. The basins were connected by canals. When the river would overflow, it filled the basins. After the flooding, the water was drained off and the basins and a layer of rich soil remained.

Farmers, fishermen, and travelers can be seen today along the Nile, as their ancestors were thousands of years ago. As far back as 5000 B.C., the people of Egypt knew how to irrigate their farms, weave linen cloth, and make fine pottery from clay. They were among the first to study mathematics and geography. The ancient Egyptians knew how to measure off their land and to draw good maps. They learned how to keep time by measuring the positions of the sun, moon, and stars.

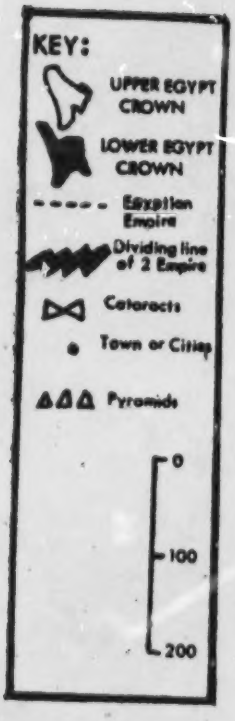
CIVILIZATIONS OF THE NILE

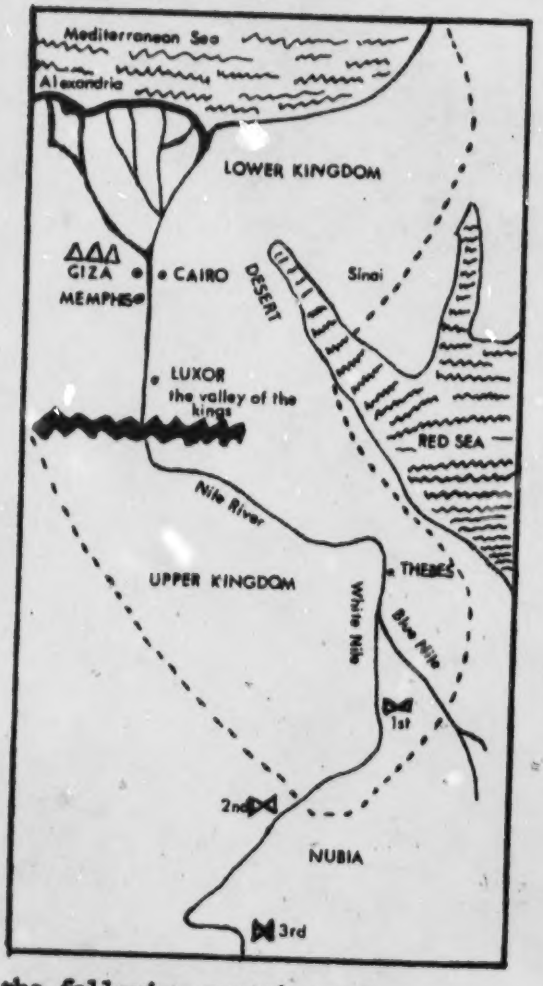
As early as 4000 B.C., Egyptian civilization was well developed. The Nile Valley was isolated from the rest of the world and extremely fertile. As a result, Egyptians were able to produce food easily and develop their culture, science, and arts. Among their many accomplishments was the invention of paper, writing (hieroglyphics), and a practical system of mathematics. They also studied science, astronomy, and medicine in their schools and universities. Master architects, they constructed the most massive structure ever built by man - the Great Pyramid of Giza.

South of Egypt lay the kingdom of Kush. Although influenced by Egypt, the Kushites continued to hold on to their traditions. Their capital, Meroe, was an important religious center and ironworking capital. Kusnites living in the region that is now the Sudan built some of the greatest civilizations of inner Africa. As Kush began to decline, Axum became a strong state. Axum, which is present day Ethiopia, is one of the oldest Christian nations in the world. On the Ethiopian horizon, stone monuments often stretch sixty feet high.



Ancient Egypt





DIRECTIONS: Using this map, answer the following questions:

1. How many miles is it from Alexandria to Memphis? _____
2. Cataracts are very small waterfalls. Ships cannot cross them easily. How many cataracts are located within the Egyptian Empire? _____
3. The Kings of Upper Egypt wore the white serpent crown. Draw it in the Upper Kingdom. The Kings of Lower Egypt wore a red crown. Draw it in the Lower Kingdom. Around 3400 B.C., Pharoah Menes united the two kingdoms and wore the double crown.
4. Are the pyramids closer to Memphis or Thebes? _____

Hieroglyphics Chart

EGYPTIAN VULTURE
"H" as in honor

FLOWERING REED
"I" as in fit

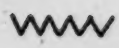
QUAIL CHICK
"W" as in word

FOOT
"B" as in bee

STOOL
"P" as in put

HORNED VIPER
"F" as in fast

OWL
"M" as in me



WATER
"N" as in no

MOUTH
"R" as in row

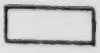
REED SHELTER
"H" as in how

TWISTED FLAX
"H" more emphatic "H"

"CH" as in loch

BOLT
"S" as in snake

FOLDED CLOTH



POOL
"SH" as in shake

HILL SLOPE
"O" as in quick

BASKET WITH HANDLE
"K" as in kick

STAND FOR JAR
"G" as in go

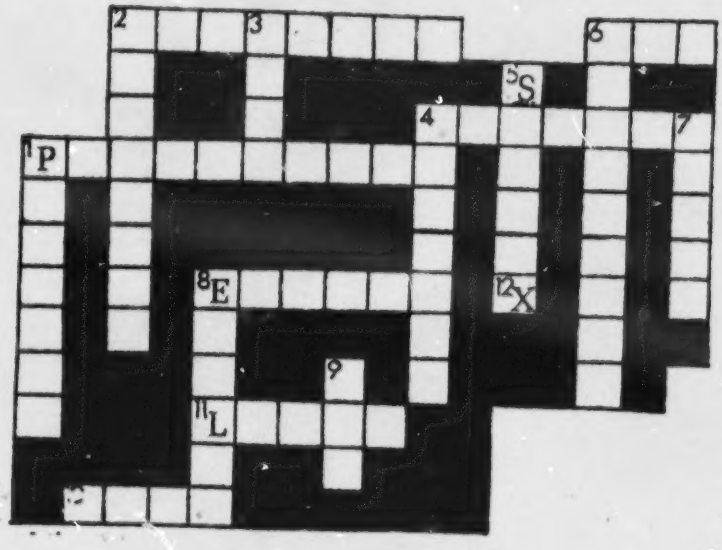
LOAF
"T" as in to

TETHERING ROPE
"TJ" sound

HAND
"D" as in dog

SNAKE
"DJ" as in judge

Egyptian Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Time before man kept records
2. An object made by man
4. Egyptians made paper from this
6. Egyptians knew _____ to do mathematics.
8. To preserve a dead body by using chemicals on it.
10. The longest river in the world.
11. Ancient Egyptians wore clothes of _____

DOWN

1. A king in ancient Egypt.
2. A person you are descended from; a forefather
3. An Egyptian goddess; the wife of Osiris
4. Huge monuments used as tombs for the pharoahs
5. A carving with the head of a man and body of a lion
6. The "father of history"
7. The Egyptians were interested in the sky and studied the _____
8. To develop
9. Egypt borders on the _____ Sea

North Africans

Mediterranean Sea
Morocco
Algeria
Libya
Egypt
Red Sea
Nile R.
Niger R.
Volta R.
Congo R.
Zaire R.
Zambezi R.
Orange R.
ATLANTIC OCEAN
INDIAN OCEAN

Vocabulary:

Read each definition for the following vocabulary words:

1. Arid - very dry

2. Applique - a cut-out decoration fastened to a larger surface

3. Dune - a hill of sand

4. Incise - to carve

5. Indigenous - first; original

6. Mirage - something imagined due to the reflection of light rays and heated air

7. Moslem - a religion based upon the teachings of Mohammed. (Sometimes spelled Muslem)

8. Nomads - people who wander from place to place usually to secure their food supply

9. Oasis - a fertile or green area in the desert

10. Sahel - the southern belt of the Sahara desert which stretches across the continent

Write T for True or F for False for each of the following questions:

_____ 1. The pilgrims were indigenous Americans.

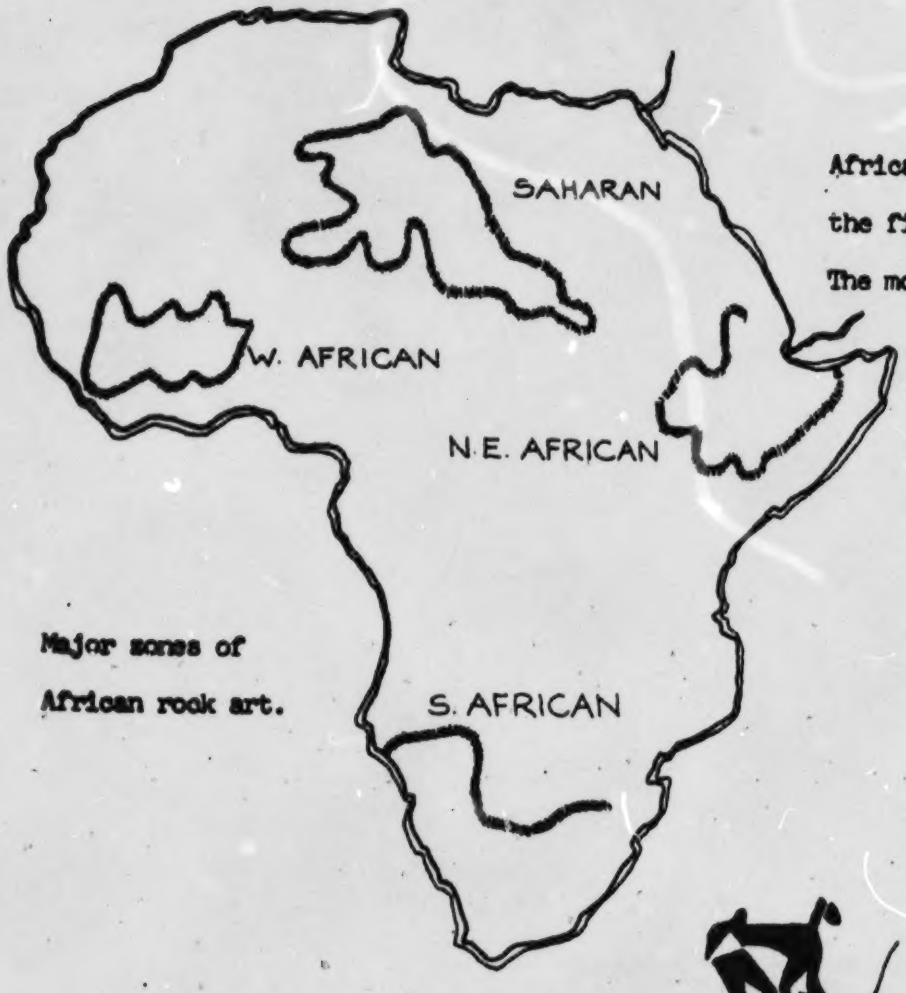
_____ 2. A mirage is something which really appears.

_____ 3. Detroit has an arid climate all year long.

_____ 4. Many North Africans are Moslems.

_____ 5. People farm on an oasis.

AFRICAN ROCK PICTURES



Major zones of African rock art.

African people were among the first to paint pictures. The most complete record of Stone Age life is painted and carved on native rock.

The Bushmen were the earliest known inhabitants of South Africa. They created some of the finest rock paintings in the world. This drawing depicts the Bushmen in a fierce battle.

TUAREG

The Tuareg live in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Mali. They are often nicknamed "blue men" or "men of the veil" because of their famous indigo blue veils. The costume worn by the Tuareg men is similar to that of other North Africans except for the veil called a tagilmus or litham.

The Tuareg have lived for centuries on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert and have been very active in trans-Saharan trade. Most of them are herders and depend almost entirely on their camels, sheep, and goats.

Tuareg society can be divided into "classes". Generally, the nobles decide where and when to move in search of pasture or trade, while their followers look after the animals. Craftsmen and blacksmiths make up a separate professional group and a servant class handles domestic work.

Tuareg women do not wear veils and it is through them that their peoples' history and culture are kept alive by educating their children.

Tuareg Artifacts

Nomadic people, especially the Tuareg, use many things made of leather. Beautiful and useful articles have been made by specialized craftsmen and Tuareg women for centuries. Hats, socks, jars, tents, pillows, purses, and saddles are often made from the skins of camel, goat, ox, or sheep.

E	B	CH	D	DD	F I	G	DJ		
....	I	J	K	GQ...	KH	L	M		
!	OU	RR	R	S	T +	TT	Z	Z	

"SHIP OF THE DESERT"

*Boots, saddles, tents made from hide.

*Transports people and baggage (can carry 1000 lbs.!)

*Blankets and cloth woven from hair.

*Provides food: milk, butter, and cheese.

*Bones used for tools.

Without the camel, man could not travel over great deserts in Africa and Asia. There are two kinds of camels in the world. An Arabian camel, which has one hump on its back, and the Bactrian camel, which has two. A breed of the Arabian camel, called a dromedary, is a riding or racing camel.

The most outstanding feature of the camel's body is the hump or humps on the middle of its back. This is made of tissue and fat, not bone. The camel stores his reserve food inside its hump! When the camel becomes starved, its hump almost disappears. This is because the fat in the hump has been turned into energy for the camel's work. When the fat is used in this way, water is produced. But this is not the reason the camel can go for long periods of time without water.

Nor is the hump used to store water. Camels drink great amounts of water (one drank 30 gallons in ten minutes) but there are no special storage areas for water. He simply keeps most of the water he drinks instead of sweating it out.

Workshop Activity: Leather Grigri

African craftsmen have fashioned clothing, household and decorative items of leather for centuries. Goat, sheep, and camel are the most popular kinds of leathers, although buffalo, antelope, zebra, and elephant are also used.

Examples of traditional leather working techniques are found on these good luck charms, or grigris. Geometric designs are often carved or incised into leather that has been tanned and dyed. Other grigris have leather appliqued designs or cowrie shells added for decoration. Some contain sayings from the Koran and are believed to protect the wearer from harm.

USING STRAIGHT LINES AND GEOMETRIC SHAPES, DRAW A DESIGN FOR YOUR GRIGRI.

WORD SEARCH

M O Q U I A Y B I L O
I O A M E D A T E S A
R E S I T H V H V L C
A T A C E T A W S H R
G A D N A S T H R A E
E R H A O R O B V R T
S G C A E I A E T A A
R I A S H R I V L T W
E M E T A R S B A I M
D D U N E D A C S N G
R O C C O R O M A L E
E A O A A E O G I M R
H S M M S B H E A E A
U I I E L I V A D L U
D S D L N L A H A S T
I N D I G E N O U S S
D I R A M E L S O M I

FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

AHAL
ARAB
ARID
CAMEL
CARAVAN
DATES
DESERT
DUNE
HARATIN
HERDERS
INDIGENOUS
LIBYA
MIGRATE
MIRAGE
MOSLEM
MOROCCO
OASIS
SAHEL
SALT
SAND
TENT
TUAREG
VEIL
WATER

West Africans

Mediterrian Sea
SAHARA DESERT
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Red Sea
Nile R
Niger R
Liberia
Ivory Coast
Ghana
Nigeria
Congo R
Zair R
Orange R
INDIAN OCEAN

Vocabulary:

1. Ashanti - a proud tribe or ethnic group in Ghana

2. Barter - to trade or exchange without using money

3. Bronze - a metal made of copper and tin

4. Communal - to share and care for the people in a community

5. Empire - a strong kingdom

6. Ethnic group - a group of people with the same customs and appearances, a tribe

7. Import - to buy and bring into the country

8. Kente cloth - hand-woven cloth from Ghana. It is usually worn for special occasions

9. Urban - like a city

10. Tradition - a custom passed down from one generation to another

Write a T for True or F for False for each of the following questions

_____ 1. Kente cloth was hand stamped cloth worn for funerals.

_____ 2. There are many different ethnic groups in Africa.

_____ 3. West Africans made fine statues of silver.

_____ 4. There are no urban areas in Nigeria or Ghana.

_____ 5. We don't usually barter for items in our country.

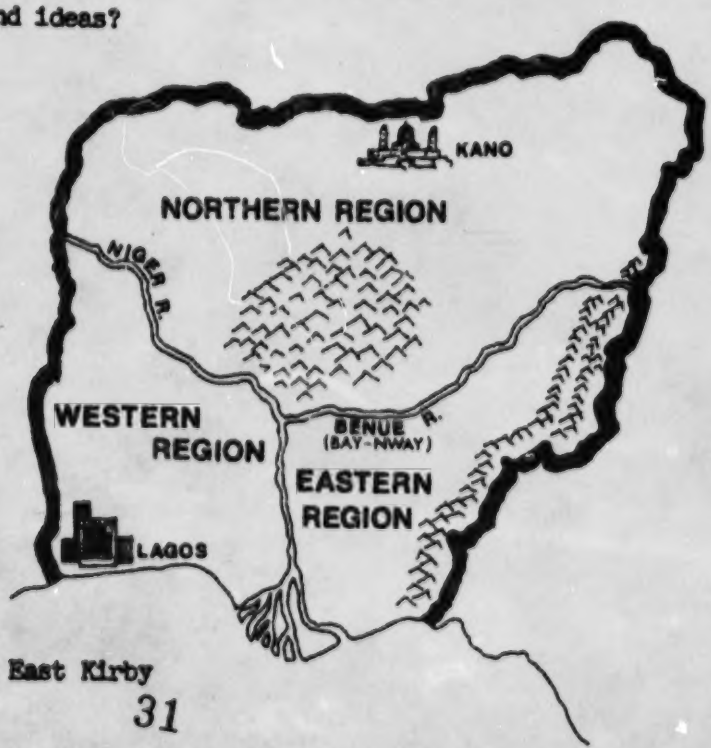
The Dress of Ghana

NIGERIA

Nigeria, named for its famous river Niger, is a big country with much variety. The land, climate, cities, and traditions differ in each region. Coastal rain forests gradually rise into hill ranges near the Benue and Niger rivers. The Great Jos Plateau area forms beyond the "Y" of the rivers. The savanah or grasslands turn into near desert country in Northern Nigeria.

The two largest cities, Kano and Lagos, are completely different! Kano is very old and used to be a busy marketplace for desert caravans centuries ago. The houses are made of mud plaster and most of the Nigerians in this area are Moslems. Lagos, the capital city, is a busy port with modern buildings and beautiful hotels and shops. Christianity is the dominant religion here.

The population is made up of many ethnic groups. The largest are Hause, Yoruba, Ibo, and Fulani. They live in different housing, wear different clothes, and eat different foods. Can you understand why they might also have different beliefs and ideas?



What's in a Name ?

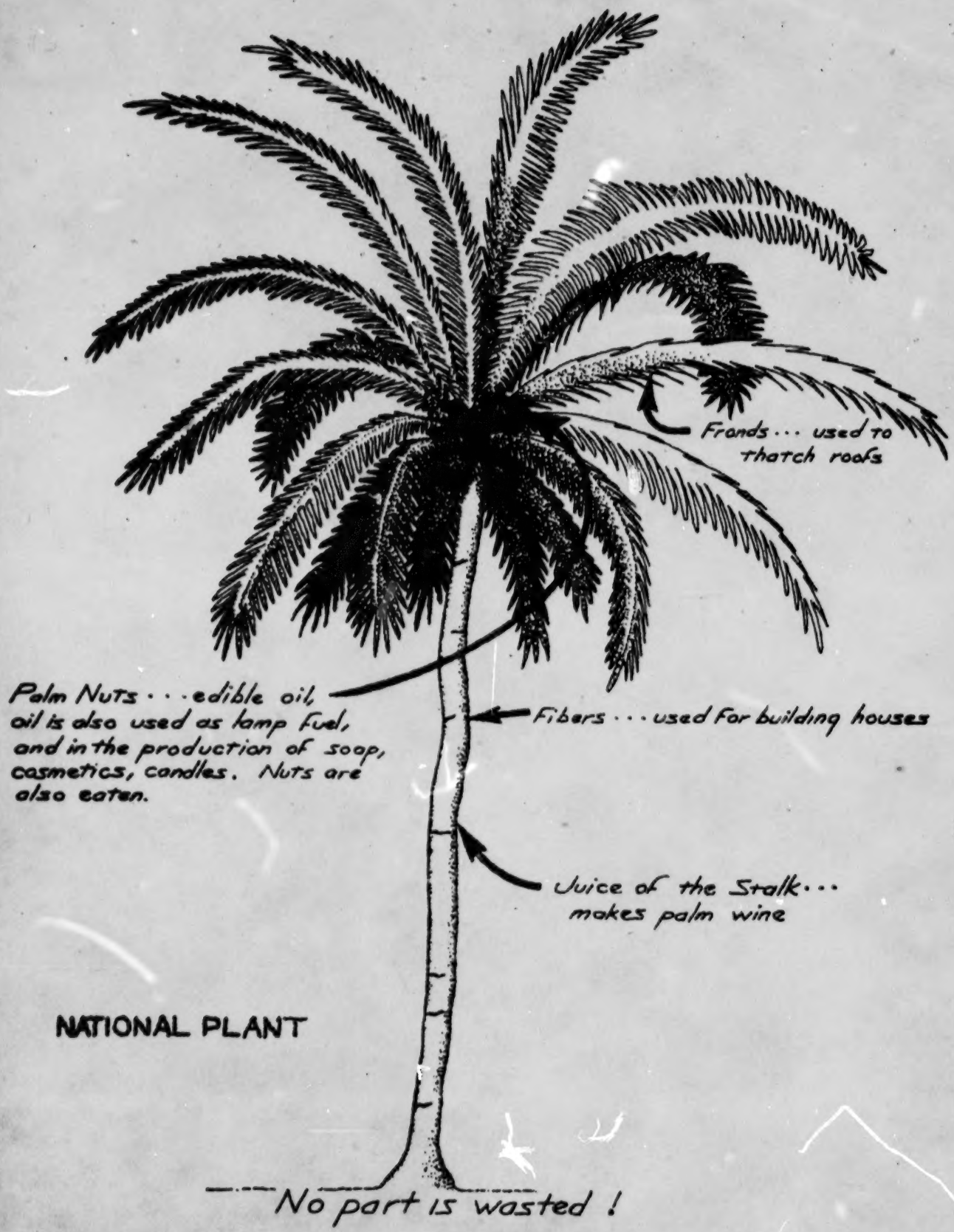
Throughout Africa, a person's name is considered a precious gift. It has been carefully selected by family and friends according to custom. Many ethnic groups have different rituals and practices. For instance, the Ashanti of Ghana include a name that tells the day of the week on which the child was born:

	Boys	Girls
Monday	Kwado	Adowa
Tuesday	Kwabena	Abena
Wednesday	Kwaku	Akua
Thursday	Yaw	Yoa
Friday	Kofi	Afua
Saturday	Kwame	Ama
Sunday	Kwasi	Akosua

Among the Yoruba of Nigeria, the parents announce a naming ceremony a week after the child's birth. The guests gather in a large room and listen to libations, an account of the family's history. Wine is poured to the floor and the names and deeds of ancestors are listed and praised. The baby is then introduced to the elements of life: wine, water, honey, pepper, and salt.

Try to pronounce these Yoruba names:

GIRLS' NAMES	Pronunciation	Meaning
AYO	AH YO	Joy
AYODELE	AH YO DAY LAY	Joy Arrives at the House
BOLADE	BAW LAH DAY	Honor Arrives
BOLANI LE	BAW LAH NEE LAY	Wealth of this House
DARA	DAH RAH	Beautiful
FOLA	FAW LAH	Respect
FABAYO	FAH BAH YO	Luck Befits Honors
IFE	EE FEH	Love
MONIFA	MO NEE FAH	I Have My Luck
BOYS' NAMES		
ADE	AH DAY	Crown
OBA	AW BAH	King
OBADELE	AW BAH DAY LAY	King of the World
OBAFEMI	AW BAH FEH MEE	The King Likes Me
BALOGUN	BAH LO GOON	Warlord
BABAFEMI	BAH BAH FEH MEE	Father Loves Me


Fronds ... used to thatch roofs
Palm Nuts ... edible oil, oil is also used as lamp fuel, and in the production of soap, cosmetics, candles. Nuts are also eaten.
Fibers ... used for building houses
Juice of the Stalk ... makes palm wine
NATIONAL PLANT
No part is wasted !

Ashanti Goldweights

Over seven hundred years ago, the Ashanti people of West Africa were involved in exchanging gold dust for salt. Each trader had to have his scales, gold dust, and standard goldweights to conduct business. To ensure fair trading, the goldweights had to be approved by the royal treasury for exactness of weight and pattern.

These charming goldweights were made out of brass or bronze. The earlier ones had geometric designs and later they were shaped like animals, people, and things in nature. The king and wealthy people had great collections of goldweights. Some people also used them for jewelry and as charms.

Ashanti goldweights are among the most interesting objects in African art, both for their design and skill involved in casting. The goldsmiths in Ghana today still practice their craft with simple tools but their works of art are purely ornamental.

Benin Bronzes

Several states or kingdoms existed along the West African coast during the Middle ages. Benin, located in present day Nigeria, was a bustling commercial center that conducted large scale trade throughout western Africa. Beni merchants dealt in iron work, weapons, farm tools, and foodstuffs. Since Benin had mastered the concept of money, transactions were not restricted to simple bartering.

An eloquent record of their civilization is left in bronze plaques and sculptures. Much of this work adorned the Oba, or king's, palace. Their work in metal, ivory, and terra cotta is placed among the great art of the world.

Celebration of Gelede

The Western Yoruba honor their women with a special masquerade performance called Gelede. They say that "if there were no mothers .... we could not come into the world. The celebration of Gelede belongs to women."

Men, women, and children participate in the Gelede ceremonies. The drummers appear and young children wearing small Gelede masks dance before the teenagers and adults appear. The more experienced dancers take over and the festival continues into the evening.

TRADITIONAL HAIRDRESSING

Beautiful braided hairstyles are a tradition among Nigerian women. Young girls learn from their mothers or female friends in the same age group. Some become professional hairdressers and establish stalls in the market places of cities, towns, and villages. Usually, hairdos fall in rows of 12-16 and look like a land plot of ridges. Perhaps this is why some African-Americans refer to this hair as "corn-rowing"!

Pineapple

Some hairstyles come from particular regions in Nigeria. In the Midwest and Eastern states, string wrapping sections of hair is popular (Brush-up drawing). In the Northern area, Fulani and Hausa women have fancy hair ornaments unlike any other. Women everywhere love to look pretty!

Brush Up

Suku

Karaba Ipaka Elede

COCOA: IMPORTANT EXPORT CROP

Cocoa farming is an important industry throughout West Africa. Ghana supplies one-third of the cocoa used throughout the world. But cocoa is also one of Nigeria's most important crops, as it is in other West African countries, such as the Ivory Coast, Togo, and Dahomey. It is raised by hundreds of thousands of small farmers whose families and helpers tend the trees and pick and dry the beans.

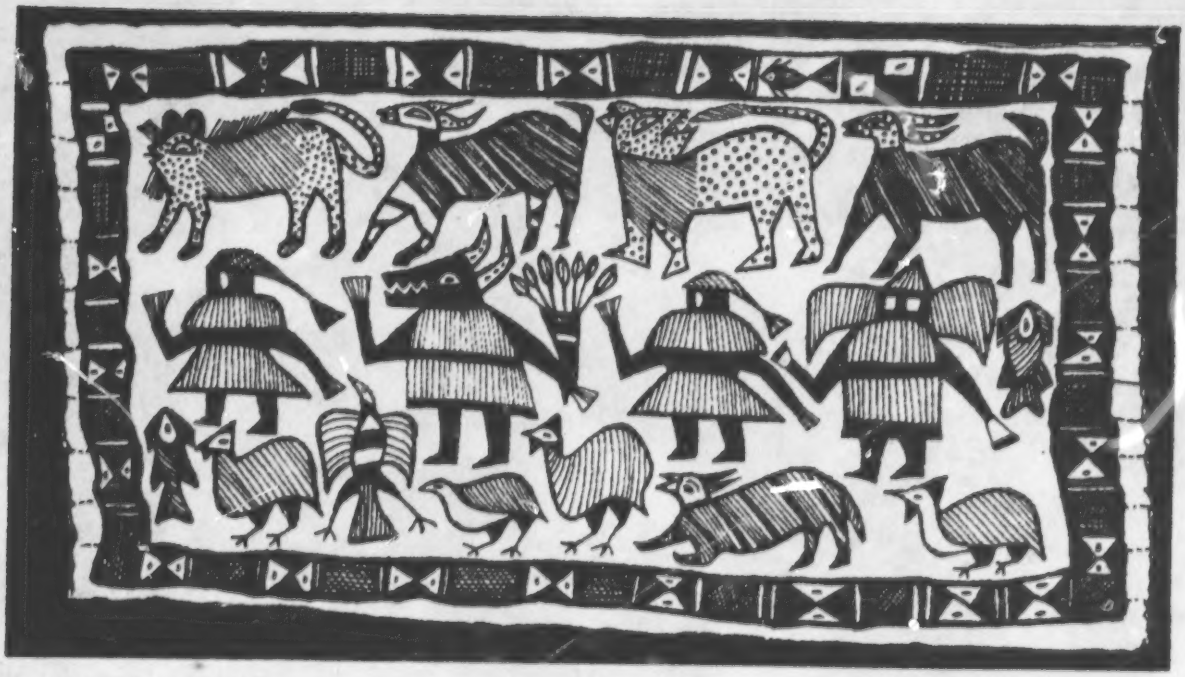
Other major products exported from West Africa are timber, rubber, peanuts, and palm oil.

Cocoa bean pods

WEST AFRICAN EMPIRES

	Height of Power	Government	Economy	Religion	Famous People	Reason's for Empire's decline	Other Comments
Ghana	700-1100 A.D.	- Monarchy - Highly organized central government - Court system	Trans-Saharan SALT/GOLD TRADE	Traditional African religions Moslem	King Tenka Menin (Resisted invasion of Almoravids for 10 years)	Invasion of the Almoravids (North Africans)	First users of iron in the region
Mali	1200-1400 A.D.	- Monarchy - Highly organized central government - Court system	Trans-Saharan - SALT/GOLD TRADE - Trade with Egypt - Agriculture	Moslem	Mansa Musa (made a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324)	Internal breakdown of central government (Civil War) Invasion of Tureg, Mossi, and Senhai	Timbuktu was center of commerce and trade
Sonhai	1400-1600 A.D.	- Monarchy - Highly Organized Central government - Court system	Trans-Saharan - SALT/GOLD - Book trade	Moslem	Askin, the Great (Outstanding Military leader)	Invasion by Moors	Expansion of Timbuktu

Workshop Activity: Senufo Cloth



Originally, the designs on this cloth were used in dance and hunting clothing. Figures of birds, snakes, fish, crocodiles, turtles, and masked dancers were meant to bring luck to the hunter and protect him. The design was painted on cotton cloth with a dull-bladed knife or brush. The dye was made from the boiled leaves of the falma bush. After this dye was applied, another coating of dye made from mud was added.

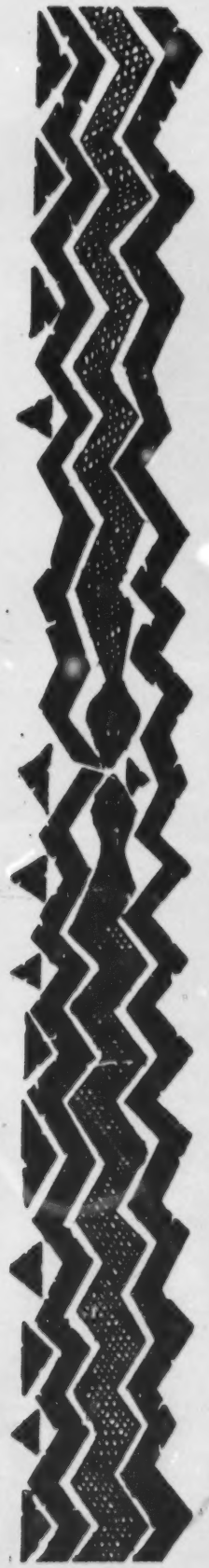
Today, these Senufo craftsmen from the Ivory Coast still make the cloth in the traditional manner, although it is used for wall hangings instead of clothing. Notice the use of lines and contrast between light and dark areas.

WORD SEARCH

A E X P M A N I G E R M B
C T E X B C O C O A A T R
C N I N E B A E M G D R O
R E L A R C B A P D L O G
A K A T E A C O K E O P P
E P N R T C D Z R U O X A
Z P U O R G C I N H T E K
N N M P A I P U N E S O N
O I M M B M A R E K M I A
R S O I E A A C X P R M B
B N C O I L C G H A N A R
T O G O E F R T M L A P U

FIND THESE WORDS:

Accra
Adinkra
Barter
Benin
Bronze
Cocoa
Communal
Empire
Ethnic Group
Export
Ghana
Gold
Import
Kente
Mali
Niger
Palm Tree
Stool
Togo
Urban



Central Africa

EUROPE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
SAHARA DESERT
AFRICA
SOUTHWEST ASIA
RED SEA
Nile R.
Niger R.
Volta R.
Ethiopia
Kenya
Zaire R.
Zaire
Congo R.
Tanzania
Zambezi R.
Orange R.
INDIAN OCEAN

Vocabulary:

1. Agriculture - cultivating and producing crops; farming

2. Architecture - designing and constructing buildings

3. Belgium - a kingdom in northwest Europe, Belgium used to control the Congo. (Present day Zaire)

4. Clan - a number of families who are believed to have a common ancestor

5. Kinshasa - an important river port and capital city of Zaire

6. Kongo - a powerful kingdom which existed at the mouth of the Congo River from 1350-1543. Its people, the Bakongo, numbered between two and three million.

7. Lumumba, Patrice - a brilliant speaker and first Prime Minister of the Congo

8. Mbuti - a group of people living in the Ituri forest, incorrectly called the pygmy. The average adult height is 4½ feet tall.

9. Swahili - a language spoken in central and eastern Africa

10. Thatching - to cover with plant stalks, such as reeds, grass, or leaves

Artifacts from Central Africa

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE ARTIFACTS FROM THE LESSON AT THE MUSEUM?

A. Which drum is the log drum? # _____

B. Which was used by the Mbutu people? # _____

C. Which musical instrument was made in Uganda?
_____

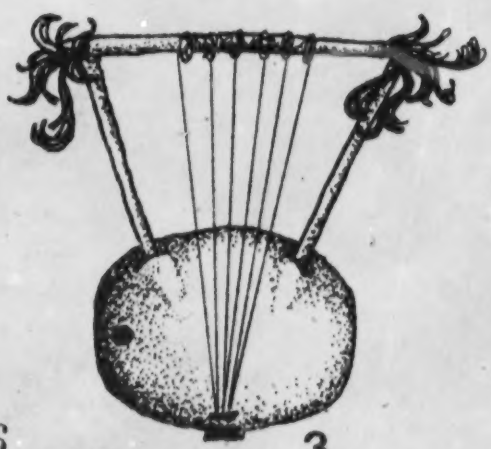
D. Which artifact was made by the Bateke people?
_____

E. Which musical instrument was made in Kenya?
_____

(The answers are found at the end of the folktale page.

1

2

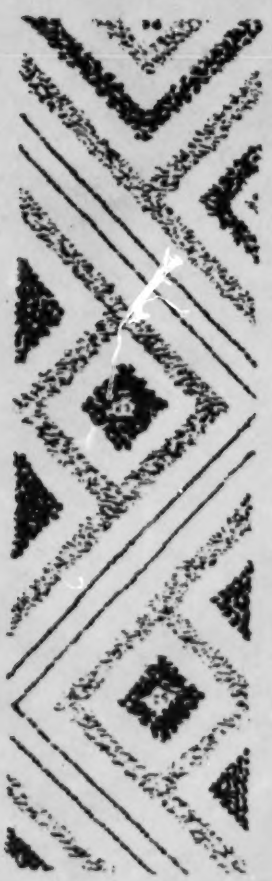


3

4

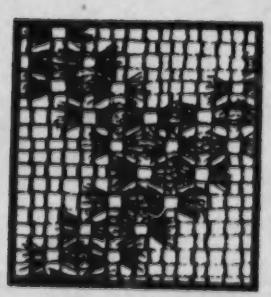
5

KASAI VELVET



From the heart of the Congo area comes this beautiful woven mat of raffia, often called Kasai velvet or pile cloth. The women of the Bushongo tribe make this textile which is unique in all the world. The fiber used is from the leaves of the palm tree. First a canvas is made of rather loosely woven raffia. This is worked with the hands and immersed in water until it is quite pliable. Usually the canvas is natural tan in color, but sometimes it is dyed red or blue. On this canvas is embroidered the pile design.

A geometric pattern is created by embroidering raffia fibers of different colors. Finely split raffia is dyed with vegetable dyes. Black and red are the most popular colors, but many shades of gray, yellow ochre, sienna, and sepia are produced also. After softening the fiber in the hands, several strands are twisted together and threaded through an iron needle. Then this thread is inserted under the strands of the canvas very close together. It is done so cleverly that none of the stitches show on the wrong side of the textile. The ends of the threads are cut off at the same height to create the thick velvety pile. A black stem stitch is sometimes used to outline the areas of the pattern. The cloth is used for mats, skirts and rugs.



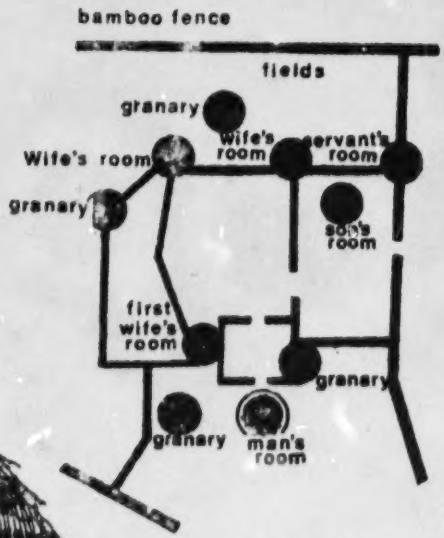
weaving detail

The Bushongo people who make this cloth have lived in the Congo region between the Sankuru and Kasai rivers for about three centuries. They came here from the north and established a great kingdom which was famous for its elaborate court etiquette. According to legend it was Shamba Bulongongo, the noted Bushongo king, who originated this craft. Some legends say that he learned it from the Pende and introduced it into his country. Today, it is believed that this craft originated in the Lower Congo where wood carving and weaving are outstanding skills of the people.

Central Africa Architecture

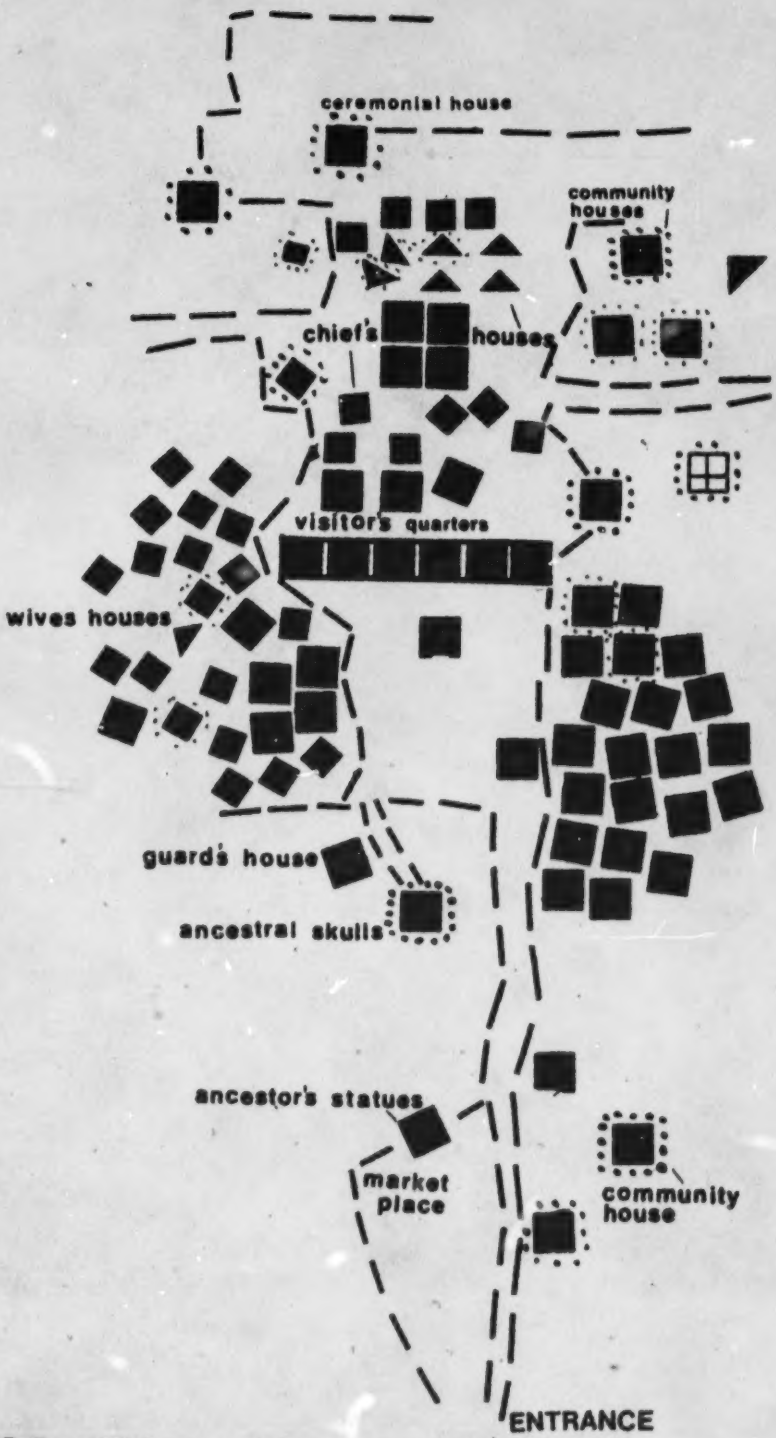
Houses built of clay, sun-dried bricks, stone, and grass or reed thatching are quite widespread through Africa. The Bamileke granary (grain storage building) in the Cameroon has square walls built of bamboo infilled with mud. A platform for the roof was made on the floor and then lifted to the top of the walls. The roof's framework was constructed on top of the platform. Thatching was usually done by the woman. Ritual jokes about their slowness were made by men, who of course finished the walls long before the woman's roof work was complete.

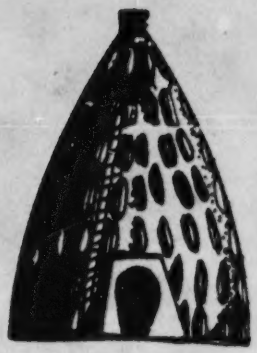
A good deal of careful planning went into the building of a single compound. Notice the various separate buildings or rooms in this sketch of a compound.



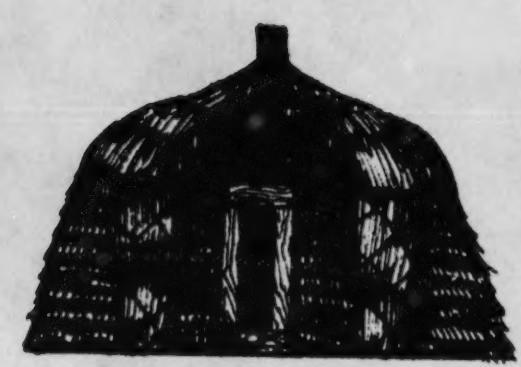
This town is divided into twenty-six wards by hedges dotted with scarlet hibiscus flowers. The chief's building was built about 1907 after an earlier one had been burned down by the Germans. It rested on a base of vertical black basalt columns. The basalt is found in veins in the nearby volcanic granite hills. The amount of grass needed for thatching such a building is considerable and every year the Fon used to organize a grass gathering ceremony when the villagers cut enough grass to thatch the palace buildings in return for a feast and entertainment.

Batoufam , Cameroon , about 1960.

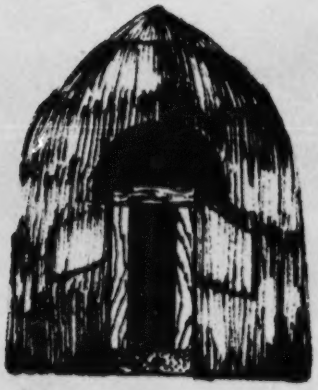




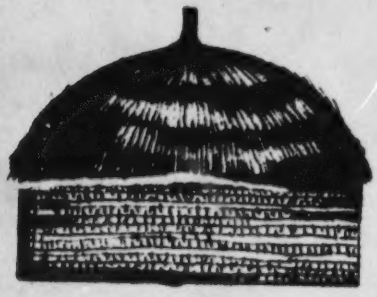
MOUSGOUM
(Cameroon)



HOLO (Zaire)



SUKU (Angola)

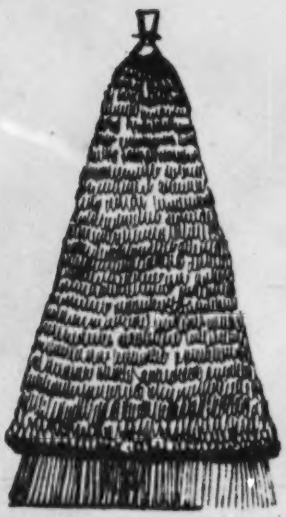


LOZI (Zambia)

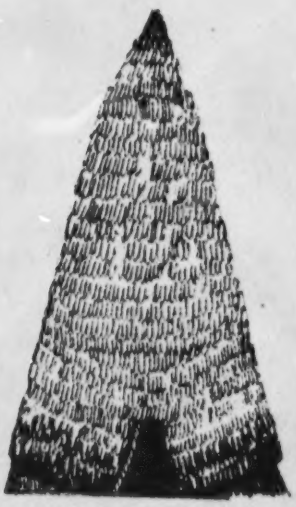
These are some of the many styles of homes found in Central Africa. The name of the tribe is written first and the country it is located is in parenthesis.

(Central Zaire)

TIKAR (Cameroom)



NGELIMA (Zaire)



NALYA (Zaire)

Folktales from Zaire
The Race

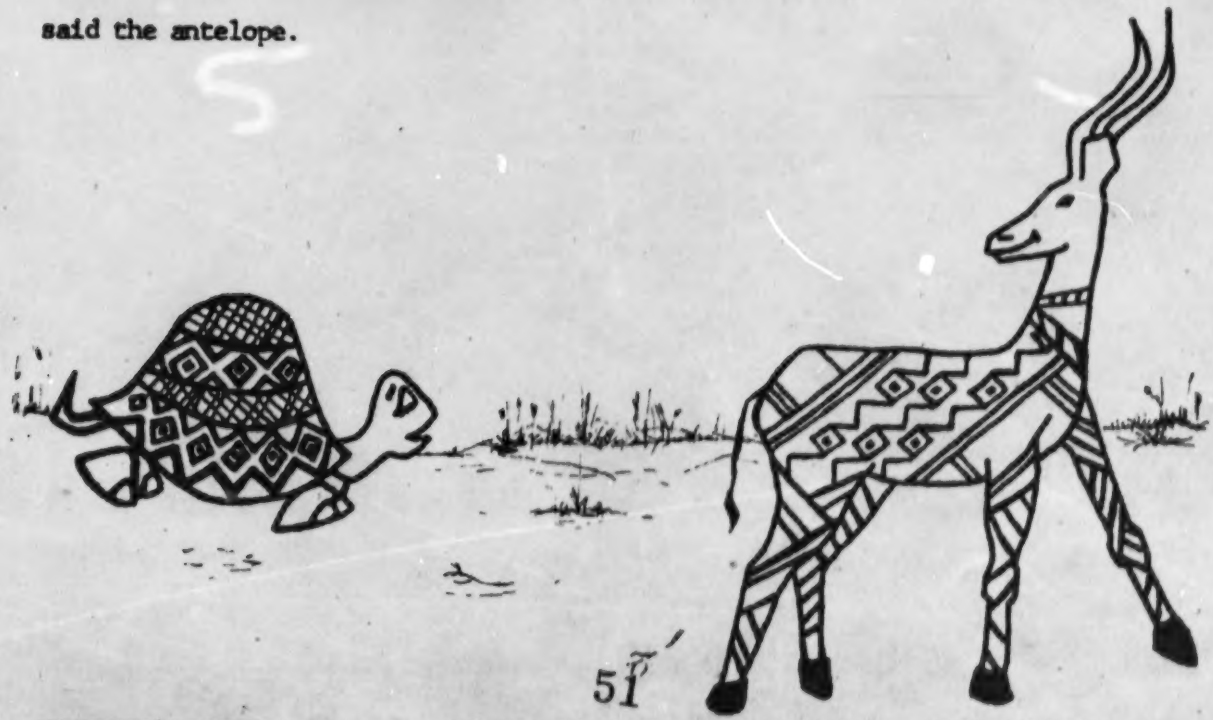
Among the Nkundo people of Zaire, it is a custom when two people meet, for the younger or less important person to ask the other his proverb - a truth by which he lives his life. This matter of courtesy is told even in folktales involving animals.

One day the tortoise met the small antelope on the path. The tortoise did not ask the antelope his proverb, he did not even greet the antelope.

"You slow, crawling creature, you didn't show the proper respect for those more important than you" said the antelope.

"Who said you are more important than I?" answered the tortoise. Though I am slow of foot, I am wise of wit. Who is to say that speed is more important than sense?"

"Well, your so-called wit certainly can't make you run faster than I can" said the antelope.



"Why not race?" snapped the turtle. "Whoever wins will be recognized as the more important one, the one whose proberb is asked. Agreed?"

"Sure" answered the antelope, "but I say you have no wit at all. Everyone knows I can run faster than you can."

"I am willing to try," stated the tortoise. "Nothing is lost by trying?"

They agreed to tell their family and friends about the entertaining race which would take place in two days. The tortoise told each of his relatives to hide along a certain place throughout the race course. They were told to start crawling along the course as soon as they saw the antelope coming. He told his brother (who looked exactly like him) to hide near the finish line.

At sunrise of the day set for the race, both animals started at the beginning of the rough course. There were many trees and gullies but the tortoise patiently moved along. The antelope was ahead and as he reached the second gully he saw the tortoise (or what looked like the tortoise) crawling just ahead of him. "I didn't think the turtle was so fast!" he shouted aloud. "I know he'll get tired soon."

But no matter how far the antelope ran, the turtle was there crawling along. As the antelope reached the bushes near the finish point, he heard shouting at that moment, the tortoise's brother had presented himself to the judges - the lion, the leopard, and the elephant.

The antelope was astonished to find the turtle there, but honored the agreement and respectfully asked him "What is your proverb"?

The tortoise smiled and answered him: "He who is swift does not win, he wins who has patience and wisdom". The antelope nodded, not realizing that he was really talking to the brother of the slow tortoise - who still takes his time today.

WHY THE DOG CHASES OTHER ANIMALS

There once were three friends, a pigeonlike bird called Embenga, a piglike animal known as Encibele, and a dog. All three decided to go on a journey together. As they went along, they came to a palm tree which had many palm nuts, but the nuts were not yet ripe to eat. Embenga, the bird, liked to eat palm fruit.

"Live here with me" said Embenga, "until the palm fruit is ready to eat".

His friends said "All right. We'll stay here with you until this palm fruit is ready to eat."

They waited about two weeks and then the palm fruit was ripe. The bird ate and ate until he had eaten all he could hold. After that, the three friends continued their journey.

At last they came to a bush area that had been burned over by fire. In bush areas, fresh grass comes up to replace the burned grass when the rains begin. Encibele is very fond of this new grass, and eats it with a great appetite.

"Wait" said Encibele, "We should stay here until the new grass comes. Then I can eat the grass and have strength to continue our journey."

"All right" the bird and dog agreed. They waited for nearly a month. The rain came and then the new grass grew. Encibele ate and ate, until he could eat no more. Then he and his friends continued their journey.

After one very long day of walking, the dog said that his nose was always wet and if they would build a fire for him he could rest with it near the big fire and it would dry out.

"All right" his friends agreed. "We shall do that."

The first day, they made a very big fire. The dog kept his nose to the fire

that first day, then the second, and the third day. His nose became a little drier but it was still wet. By the fourth day, his friends told him that they were tired of waiting on him.

"What?" said the dog. "You are my good friends. I have been doing favors that you asked. You should stay here and make for me the fire that I need."

Embenga said "No! We don't like this, day after day." And he flew away.

Encibele, too, shook his head and went off into the forest. The dog became angry at his friends' desertion. From that time on, he became the enemy of all birds and animals. That is why today, when the dog sees an animal or a bird, he chases it, all because Embenga and Encibele would not help him dry his nose.

ANSWERS TO AFTIFACTS FROM CENTRAL AFRICA

A. - #5

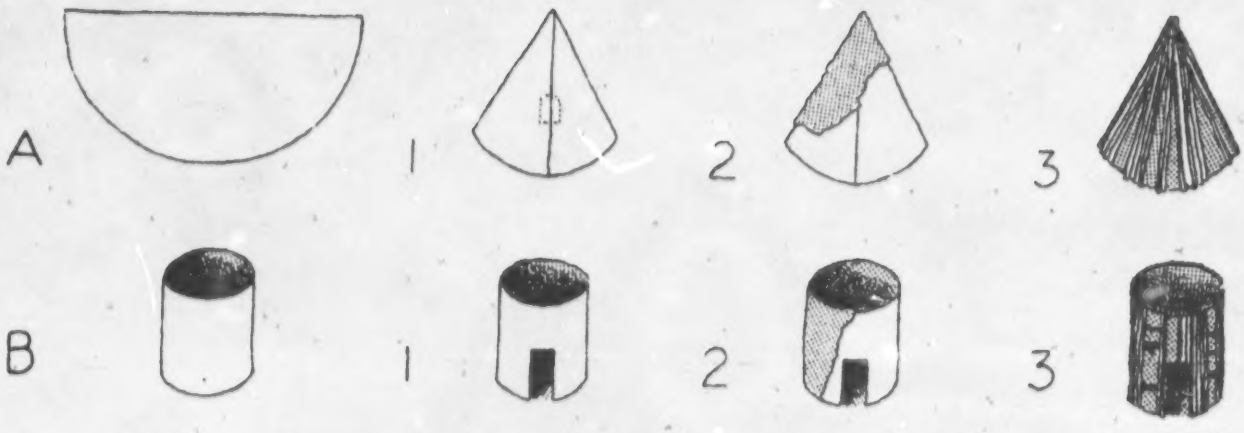
B. - #2

C. - #3

D. - #1

E. - #4

Workshop Activity: Village Architecture



INSTRUCTIONS

A

1. Form cone shape with paper. Tape ends together inside.
2. Apply papier-mache over entire outside surface of cone.
3. While papier-mache is still wet, lay sticks or raffia in mache. Let dry.

B

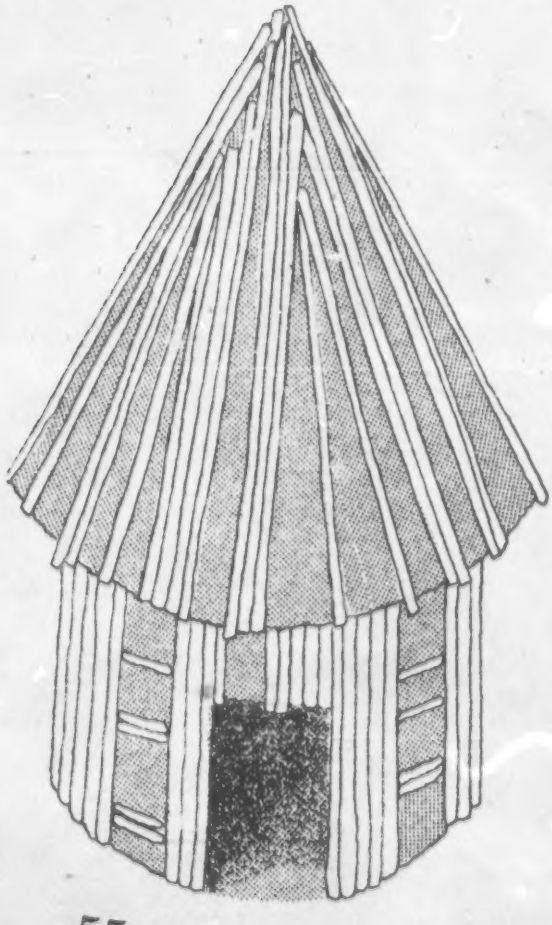
1. Cut door from cylinder.
2. Apply papier-mache over entire outside surface of cylinder.
3. While papier-mache is still wet, lay in sticks and small squares.

FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Apply glue to top rim of cylinder. Insert in cone. Let dry.

Illustration shown is actual size of finished house.

Shape of bottom portion of house may vary.



Word Search
-Central Africa-

B A G N I M R A F M
E S W A H I L I A B
L A K E D B K O N U
G H O P R A H I R T
I S N I U U A K L I
U N G H M R F L T E
M I O S B A A P O E
B K B M E F F O C F
U E M A R F C R A F
H R A E B I L T E O
A I T T B A A P T C
K A A S U Z N O S A
W Z I I R U B B E R
C O K S N O T T O C

BELGIUM
CLAN
COTTON
COFFEE
DENIM
FARMING
HARP
KINSHASA
KONGO
MBUTI
PORT
RAFFIA
RAIN
RUBBER
STEAMSHIP
SWAHILI
WATERFALL
ZAIRE

South Africans

ATLANTIC OCEAN
Mediterranean Sea
SAHARA DESERT
Red Sea
Nile R
Niger R
Rhodesia
South Africa
INDIAN OCEAN

Vocabulary:

1. Apartheid - a system in South Africa which divides people and limits their activities according to their race.
2. Age set - young people placed in a group to learn the duties of adulthood
3. Bantu - the language group of Africans in Central and Southern Africa
4. Bantustans - reservations where Africans (sometimes called Bantu) are forced to live
5. Boers - people of Dutch descent who settled in and took control of South Africa
6. Lobola - a gift given to the family of the bride-to-be
7. Oppress - to cause pain, hardship, and suffering; to crush
8. Terra cotta - a hard, semi-fired clay used in pottery and construction
9. Stereotype - a fixed opinion or belief about a group of people, usually unfavorable
10. Veld - prairie land, plains

APARTHEID

All South Africans over the age of sixteen must carry at least an identification card. Nonwhite South Africans, however, must carry a ninety-page "reference book". It contains an identify card, photograph, fingerprints, tax receipts, records of the individual's contract of employment and the monthly signature of his employer, and permits to be in a given area. This book must be carried at all times and the information must be kept up-to-date.

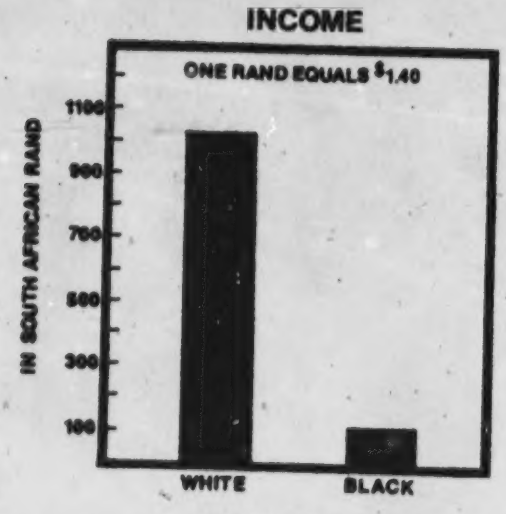
If a person is stopped when he is not carrying his passbook, or if the book is not in order, he is subject to a fine and a prison sentence. These laws have been used by the South African police to brutally harass — over 1,700 are prosecuted each day. The demonstration at Sharpeville in 1960, which ended in a bloody massacre, was held to protest the pass laws.

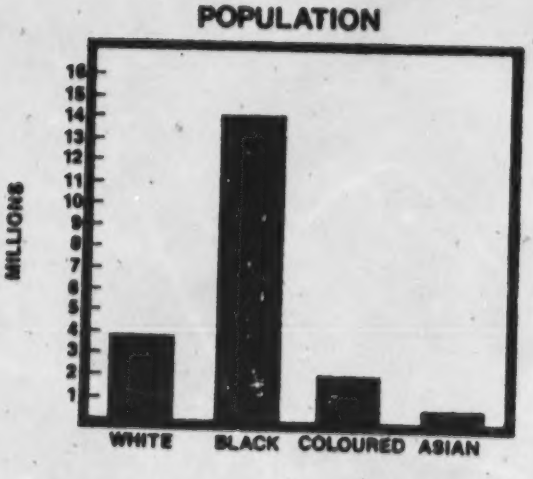
These laws produce all kinds of hardships. Even getting caught momentarily without the book can bring punishment. "I was arrested near my house while on my way to buy a paper" Cameron B. of Johannesburg related. "MY family brought my pass to the police station and it was in order, but I was not released and the next day I was fined eight rand (11.20). This is six days pay for the average urban Black person.

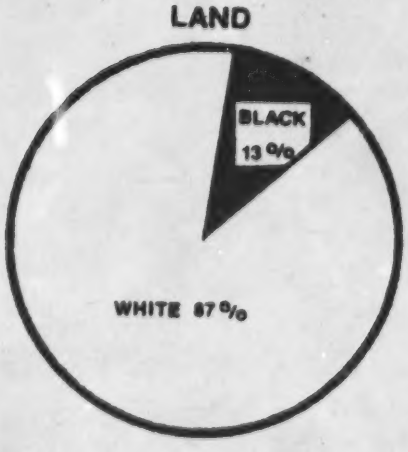
CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

Apartheid, which means separateness, is the name given by the Government of South Africa to its system of racial segregation, oppression and exploitation. This system enables whites, who comprise less than one-fifth of the population, to control the Republic's affairs. A person's racial classification is all-important in South Africa, since it determines the extent of his rights and freedoms. For a non-white, it controls where he may live, how he may live, what work he may do, what sort of education he will receive, what political rights he will have, if any, whom he may marry, the extent of social, cultural, and recreational facilities open to him, and generally the extent of his freedom of action and movement.

STATISTICS ON SOUTH AFRICA







FILL IN THE INFORMATION YOU'VE LEARNED FROM THESE CHARTS:

1. The total population of South Africa is about _____ million.

2. There are _____ million Africans and only _____ million whites.

3. The Coloured population is _____ million and the Asians number _____ million.

4. There is a great difference in the annual (yearly) income. Africans average about _____ rand but whites make _____ rand. A rand equals $_____ in our currency. How much American money would 50 rand equal?

5. Of all the land (100%) in South Africa, Africans are on what per cent?_____

Chaka: a Zulu Hero

Chaka was born in 1773, the son of Yaenzangacona, King of the Zulu people. When he was old enough, he joined an age-set of other Zulu boys and began learning about the responsibilities of manhood: tending cattle, protecting women and children, and learning Zulu traditions. He became the leader of his age-set and as the elders watched this tall, handsome, young man, they predicted great things. (When he killed a leopard single handed, they were sure of it!)

When Chaka turned twenty-five, he became king of the Zulu. His military genius was evident in his organization of the Zulu army. A guard corps of 15,000 men were able to move anywhere at a moment's notice. He also improved the old methods of fighting by substituting a short stabbing spear, called an assagai, for the traditional throwing spear.

Chaka and the Zulu warriors after him fought against the white farmers taking their land for forty years. The superior weapons of the Boers or whites brought an end to the strong Zulu nation, which like other Black ethnic groups in South Africa are oppressed to this day.

CHIEF ALBERT JOHN LUTHULI

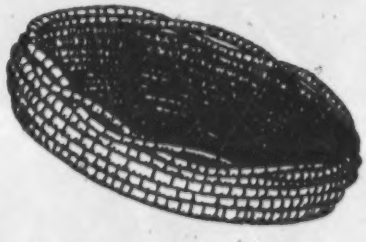
Albert John Luthuli was a Zulu chief who tried to peacefully change conditions for his people. Many people considered him the "Martin Luther King" of South Africa. Before he became a leader in the struggle for human rights, he was a teacher.

Luthuli was a strong, good-natured, highly intelligent man. He had a habit of beginning a speech with a moving song, as he encouraged the Zulus to stand up for their rights. A speaker of power and persuasion, Lutuli won the Nobel Peace Prize for his "fight against apartheid" in 1961. He died in 1967, but he is remembered by many.

ZULU ARTIFACTS

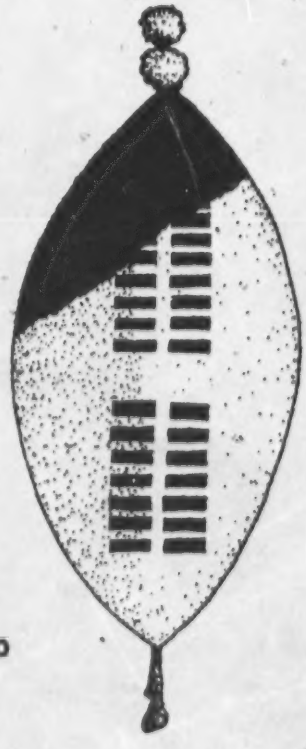
SERVING TRAY

Zulu craftsmen enjoy carving useful objects from indigenous, South African wood. This serving tray is used during ritual and familial feasts. The difference in the size of handles is done to show at which end the best meat will be placed. The crocodile carving at the bottom was done by a school boy during his free time. He and other children often sell their carvings along the roadside to tourists.



BREAD TRAY

Palm leaves and saplings are used in making sleeping mats, purses, and baskets. A very popular type of open, flat basket is used for a bread tray in village and city homes. The shield is a reminder of the fighting spirit of Zulu warriors long ago. Today, they're used in ceremonies and festivals.



SHIELD

CROCODILE

Zulu Women

In most African societies, the change from childhood to adulthood is marked by various ceremonies and customs. When a Zulu girl gets married, one custom is changing her hairstyle! As a young girl, she wore it short and neatly cropped but as a Zulu lady she wears it high and beautifully dressed with fancy beads. Her ancestors used wooden head rests or Isiquikis to sleep on but today many Zulu women prefer pillows.

Workshop Activity: Clay

Pot from South Africa

Water jug from Ethiopia

Clay drums from Morocco

Clay pots are formed all over Africa and are seen in every market. Africans cook in them, use them for storage, as dye pots for fabrics, and bath tubs for babies! Potters are almost always women and they generally use five steps in making pottery: digging the clay, preparing it, creating the form, drying the form, and firing it.

To prepare your clay, you will have to knead it: work it in your hands by pressing, squeezing, and rolling it. After forming it into a ball, you will put your thumb in the middle and press inward while hollowing it out. This is one method of making pots which is often called the pinch pot technique. Your hands will be the primary tools for building and shaping your pot. Additional clay working tools will be used for outside decoration.

Word Search
-South Africa-

R L R O I R R A W O A I R G S
E U A S K A D L O G B G N A H
C T V N L D A S I A N I P O L
C H E X D I M D Z U N A P A W
O U L C H A K A I I R C A K S
S L D O N Z R B M E L R S A D
D I A X P A S E V A K B S P E
D I A M O N D S A G O R B A R
S N O I T A V R E S E R O R O
S M B N T A W I T O A I O T L
B E A D W O R K A B E C K H O
O V E P E R I R Z S A U T E C
C O L O N I Z E U A O N O I T
A L M A S H I E L D A H T D E
L O B O L A T E U N J O X U X

Circle the following words: APARTHEID, ASIAN, BANTU, BEADWORK, BOER, CHAKA, CLAN, COLONIZE, DIAMONDS, DIAZ, GOLD, KRAAL, LAND AREAS ACT, LOBOLA, LUTHULI, MINING, PASSBOOK, RESERVATIONS, SHIELD, SOCCER, VELD, XHOSA, WARRIOR, and ZULU.

Africans in the New World

Vocabulary:

1. Abolish - to destroy; get rid of

2. Abolitionist - a person who wanted to get rid of slavery

3. Chattel - property; the way slaves were thought of

4. Confederacy - (The Confederate States of America)

5. Dehumanize - to make less than human

6. Indentured servant - a person bound to service for a certain number of years

7. Kalimba (Sanza) - a keyboard musical instrument with plucked keys. It is sometimes referred to as a "finger piano".

8. Manumitt - to make free

9. Maroons - name given to runaway slaves in the West Indies and South America, who formed their own community

10. Prejudice - an unfavorable opinion formed beforehand without knowledge or reason

Slavery in America

There were many Africans who came to the "New World" before the Atlantic slave trade began. Many traveled with Spanish and Portuguese explorers like Columbus and Balboa in the 15th and 16th centuries. The first Africans to settle in the English colonies landed in 1619 in Jamestown, Virginia. They were not slaves: they were indentured servants, like many of the white settlers. Indentured servants were required to work for a number of years and then they were freed.

By the late 1600's, southern colonists decided that all children of Black mothers would become slaves for life. Why? Cheap labor was needed if the colonists were to prosper. Unlike the Indian, Africans were used to agricultural labor, they did not sicken and die as easily and they were thousands of miles from home and friends. Their skin color made then an easy target for recapture.

Slaves in the Southern colonies worked largely on tobacco, rice, and sugar cane crops. Not all the slaves worked in the field. Some were skilled craftsmen and others became servants in the "big house" of their masters. All of them were treated like property or things and denied the most basic human rights.

1. Twenty Africans arrived in Virginia in 1619. They were not slaves but:

_____

2. List 4 reasons colonists continued enslaving Africans instead of the Indians:

_____ _____

_____ _____

When the trans-Atlantic slave trade began in the fifteenth century, Africans were taken to the West Indies, Central and South America before they were brought to the English colonies in America. Did you know that as early as 1553 there were twenty thousand slaves in Mexico? By 1847, there were more than four and a half million Blacks in Brazil? (More than one million were free.)

African descendants in Latin America have always been more aware of their African heritage than their brothers and sisters in North America. This was largely due to the different system of slavery practiced in Latin America. Africans brought into Latin America were allowed to keep certain "human rights" and some African traditions. In Brazil, for example, there was no law against teaching slaves to read or write. African customs, religious practices, and dialects were permitted and still exist in various forms today. Consequently, many Blacks in Brazil can trace their ancestry back to specific West African tribal groups with relative ease. Africanisms in the way of walking, talking, singing, expressing, cooking, and relating to people are still very much alive more than 400 years later, throughout the "New World".

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
67 East Kirby

Detroit Public Schools

Music has always been very important in African life. It was used in everyday activities, work, religion, and various ceremonies. Music was even used for communication. The "talking drums" imitated the pitch of the human voice.

African elements of music traveled with the Moors to Spain in the eighth century, to Latin America in early sixteenth century, and later to America in the seventeenth century. Slaves of African ancestry found pleasure and consolation in their songs. They often used an African technique of "call-and-response" in the field hollars and work songs. (The leader would sing a line or phrase and the group would answer or add to the leader's statement.)

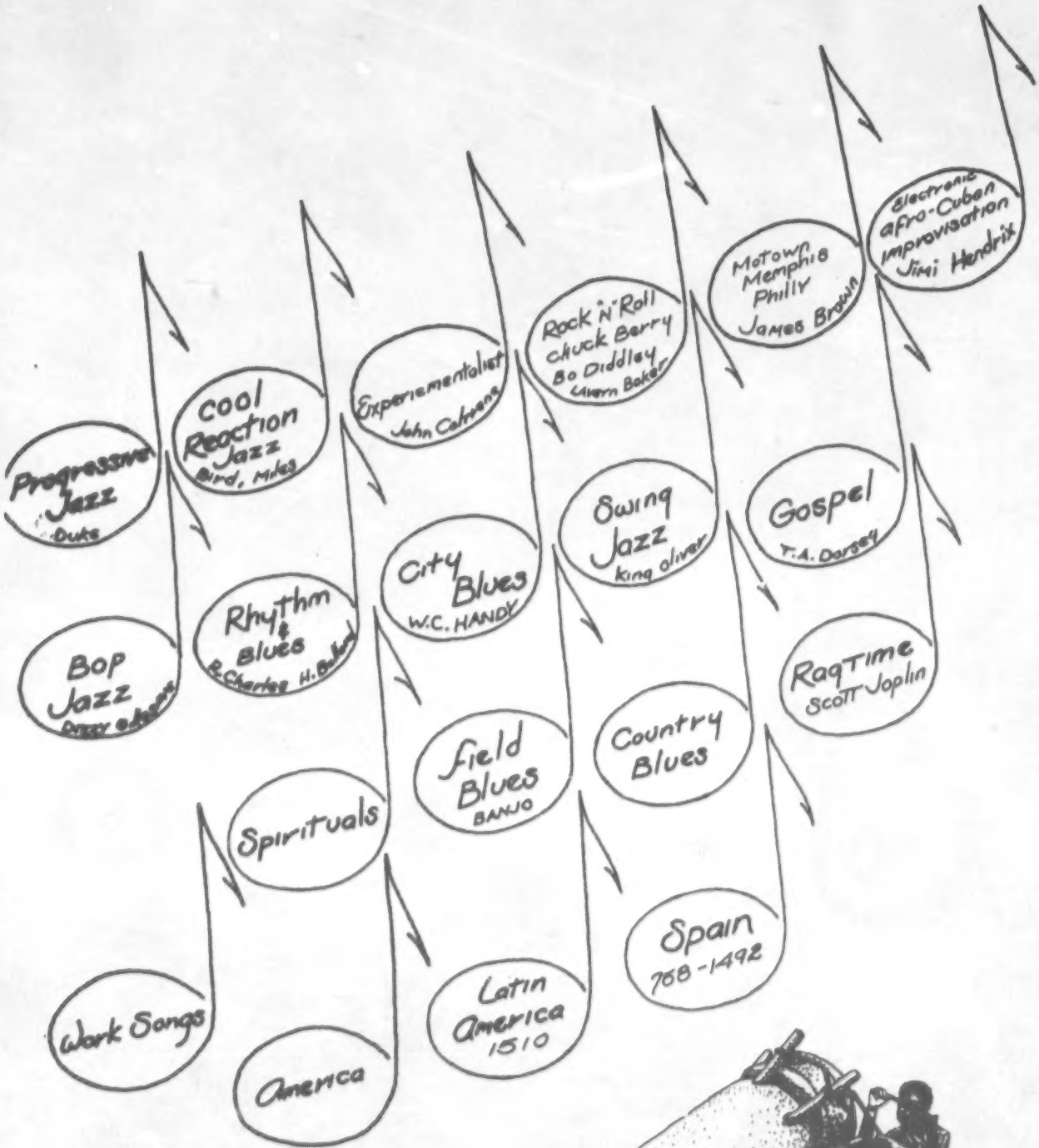
Rhythms, vocal tones, and the creation of music while playing along are just a few traits of music created by Africans and their descendants throughout the world.

Look at the chart of music notes on the next page. Write five forms of music created by African-Americans:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____



AFRICAN ELEMENTS

TALKING DRUM

Workshop Activity: Finger Piano

The sanza or finger piano is found throughout the African continent. The appearance of the sanza may vary but it isually has a rectangular wooden sound box and a number of keys made of bamboo strips, bark or metal. The tuning of the instrument varies from one tribe to another, but it is obtained by varying the length of the keys. The sanza is held in both hands and the tips of the keys are plucked with the thumbs or index finger.

Practice drawing a geometric design for your sanza within the dotted lines on this drawing.

African American Word Search

T E S B L A Y A W A N U R
N H K S I R A E U T R O P
A T C T R A N I A P S W A
V I U R U W E S B A L B C
R M T S A L V E B R N A I
E S T E P I C O R F A S R
S K A I O V L U N A M L F
D C S D A I S R F A B A A
E A U N T C O T A M U U S
R L P I M A N U M I T T U
U B S T O B A C C O T I G
T N I S A C I R F A E R A
N Y R E V A L S A C I I R
E I C W N O T T O C R P T
D C W O R K S O N G R S O
N U G L L A B O R P A S B
I S L A G U T R O P H O A
O R E K E N N A B N E B I

FIND THESE WORDS:

AFRICA
ART
ABOLITION
HARRIET TUBMAN
BEN BANNEKER
COTTON
CRISPUS ATTUCKS
BLACKSMITH
RUNAWAY
INDENTURED SERVANT
LABOR
PORTUGAL
MANUMITT
SLAVERY
SUGAR
TOBACCO
SPAIN
WEST INDIES
WORK SONGS